



ELUL - Center for Pluralist Jewish Learning - Overseas Programs

Join us for an inspiring experience with Elul.

We welcome you and your group into a world of questioning and learning, open to professionals and lay leaders, communities, teachers and educators, students, youth groups, private groups, families and individuals.

At Elul, men and women of diverse backgrounds and belief systems encounter the most compelling and challenging texts of Jewish tradition.

By focusing on questions and issues of interest for the Jewish world today, through engaging with texts that are the shared heritage of Jews around the world, we expand and deepen the dialogue between different sections of the Jewish people, and between Israel and the Diaspora.

The following programs can be implemented in Israel or Elul can help you implement them in your community – by sending materials or, with the visit of an Elul Scholar in Residence to your community. The materials and programs can be custom-ordered based on the needs of the group.

Etnachta - Study Break in Israel*

Take a break from a busy schedule, to reflect, learn and share thoughts and experiences arising from the encounter with Israel's many faces.

The open dialogue we facilitate creates a unique meeting between learners, texts and the questions of Jewish experience and life.

Whether for two hours, several days, our programs can be tailor-made to the needs of the group.

In addition to joining us at our beautiful Elul center, we can join you at your group's headquarters (hotel, youth hostel etc.), study in nature, or combine the workshops with walking-tours.

We can also arrange learning encounters with Israelis (in English and Hebrew) to deepen the dialogue within the Jewish people.

(**אֶתְנַחְתָּא* – A short break)

Educational Materials

Elul specializes in creating attractive, stimulating and readable study sheets with a particular emphasis on contemporary Israeli sources (Israeli poetry, literature, or other texts in translation, that reflect unique aspects of the Israeli experience).

The sources included in a study sheet appear both in translation (English, French, Russian or Spanish) and in the original Hebrew (mostly for classical texts such as Bible, Midrash etc.).

level of the study sheet can be adapted to the level of the group and the length of the study session.

We explore topics and questions relevant to both Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

Sample topics:

- Jerusalem - such as: From Afar and Close Up; Captured in her dream - The Real and
- Ideal Jerusalem
- Roots in Two Landscapes – Israel Diaspora relationships
- What's Your Name? – on names and identities
- Lost in Translation – on multicultural encounters
- *Machloket (dispute)* – a war or an opportunity?
- Friendship
- Birth and Death – Life cycles and their meanings
- Jewish Time – Jewish holidays such as: Shabbat, Israel Independence day, Israel Memorial day, Tu Bishvat
- Authority and leadership

Educator Training Programs

Elul's training programs for educators prepare participants for developing Beit Midrash-style programs in their communities: for youth, adults, children, joint parent-teacher study programs, Jewish family education, etc.

Reclaiming The Jewish Life-Cycle

Elul's Life-Cycle Study Center offers group workshops where participants can delve into the Jewish and personal meaning of rites-of-passage ceremonies and based on their learning, devise ways of marking these events in a more personal and meaningful manner.

About Elul

Elul was established in 1989 by Israelis from the entire range of cultural and political orientations: religious and secular, men and women, yeshiva students and former kibbutz members. Together they dreamed of renewing the Jewish study experience which would grow from joint Jewish study and open, respectful dialogue.

Elul's benchmark is Beit Midrash style learning, in which the *hevruta* (small study groups) format is used to study Jewish traditional and modern sources – from Bible to Modern Hebrew poetry and philosophy, as well as perspectives from the world cultures. The refreshing encounter with traditional Jewish sources encourages the participants to find their own personal interpretations and meaning in the ancient texts.

Since its establishment, Elul has been synonymous with pluralistic, respectful interaction between Israelis of all backgrounds. Elul's creative way of learning has attracted thousands of talented students, including noted authors and people from the media, theatre and business.

Today, Elul's active programming includes a thriving Beit-Midrash in Jerusalem, over 30 satellite study communities across Israel, programs for new immigrants, the Life-cycle study center, overseas programs and much more.

Elul's goal is to enable dialogue that breaks cultural barriers and generates positive discourse that is based on a deep respect between learners and a profound encounter with the Jewish heritage.

For more details contact:

Heftsiba Cohen-Montagu, Coordinator

Overseas Department

heftsi@elul.org.il